

## Message Text

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70/17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 OES-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03

/027 W

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R 300517Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5339

INFO NAHGAVMEDCEN BETHESDA

CHBUMED WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

NAMRU TWO TAIPEI

COMUSTDC TAIWAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 2998

C O R R E C T E D COPY GARBLE END OF PARA 4

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TW

SUBJECT: CONTINUATION OF NAMRU-2 IN TAIPEI

REFERENCE: A. STATE 049261 ((052014Z MAR 75) NOTAL

B. TAIPEI 0374 (220800Z JAN 75)

JOINT EMBASSY/NAMRU-2 MESSAGE

NATNAVMEDECEN FOR NAVMEDRSCHDEVCOM

1. IN EARLY APRIL, EMBASSY AND NAMRU-2 OFFICERS HELD INITIAL DISCUSSION WITH MOFA ON EXTENSION OF NAMRU-2 IN TAIPEI, CLEARLY SPECIFYING DESIRE FOR EXTENSION FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD, SUBJECT TO RIGHT OF TERMINATION AS PROVIDED IN EXISTING AGREEMENT (REF A).

2. FOLLOWING THEIR CONSULTATION WITH OTHER GROG ENTITIES INVOLVED, MOFA REQUESTED A SECOND DISCUSSION ON MAY 27. IN THAT DISCUSSION, WE WERE TOLD THAT GROG IS AGREEABLE TO AN EXTENSION OF NAMRU-2 AND PROPOSES  
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A THREE-YEAR EXTENSION PERIOD. RATIONALE FOR THREE-

YEAR PERIOD WAS NOT EXPLAINED, AND IT BECAME APPARENT IN THE DISCUSSION THAT A PERIOD LONGER THAN THREE YEARS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. IT ALSO BECAME OBVIOUS THAT THERE IS WITHIN THE GROG A STRONG OBJECTION TO AN INDEFINITE EXTENSION. (THIS WAS CONFIRMED LATER BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF NAMRU-2 IN CONVERSATION WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT OF TAIWAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, WHO ADDED THAT TEN-YEAR EXTENSION WOULD PROBABLY BE OKAY.) ATTITUDE OF MOFA OFFICER (CHARLES KING, DPTY DIRECTOR, NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS) WAS STRENGTHENED WHEN HE ASKED ABOUT BASIC AGREEMENTS AND EXTENTIONS FOR NAMRU UNITS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, AND WAS TOLD THAT THEY HAVE ALL, INCLUDING AN EXTENSION AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT, BEEN FOR SPECIFIC RATHER THAN INDEFINITE PERIODS OF TIME.

3. COMMANDING OFFICER OF NAMRU-2 BELIEVES THAT SHORT-TERM EXTENSION WOULD SEVERLY HINDER NAMRU'S ACTIVITIES, FOR THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONAL REASONS:

A. PLANNING FOR RESEARCH FUNDING, STAFFING AND SCIENTIFIC CONTENT IS NOT REALISTIC IN SHORT TIME FRAME-- CERTAINLY NOT FOR PERIOD LESS THAN FIVE YEARS.

B. SHORT-TERM EXTENSION WOULD BE EXTREMELY DISRUPTIVE TO MORALE OF KEY NAMRU CHINESE SCIENTIFIC STAFF, SOME OF WHOM MIGHT SEEK OTHER EMPLOYMENT.

C. NAMRU'S CREDIBILITY WITH RESPECT TO RESEARCH COMMITMENTS IN THE PHILIPPINES (NOW BEING NEGOTIATED) AND INDONESIA (NOW IN EXISTENCE) WOULD SUFFER IF THOSE COUNTRIES BECAME AWARE THAT PARENT RESEARCH UNIT (NAMRU-2) HAD BEEN EXTENDED IN TAIWAN FOR A REALITIVELY SHORT PERIOD.

4. MOFA REACTION TO OUR PROPOSAL THAT NAMRU EXTENSION BE ON AN INDEFINITE BASIS LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT GROG HAS TAKEN A FIRM STAND AGAINST AN INDEFINITE EXTENSION--PROBABLY ON PRINCIPLE-- AND THAT IT WOULD BE EXTEMELY DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO BACK DOWN  
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FROM THIS POSITION. THEREFORE, ALTHOUGH INDEFINITE PERIOD WOULD BE SEEN PREFERABLE, WE RECOMMEND THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO PROPOSE A SPECIFIC EXTENSION PERIOD. BECAUSE BASIC AGREEMENT (TIAS 3493, TIAS 3720) PROVIDES USG OPTION OF ABANDONMENT OF THE PROJECT AT ANY TIME, AND THIS WORDING WOULD BE UNAFFECTED BY THE EXTENSION, US INTERESTS WOULD APPEAR TO BE ADEQUATELY PROTECTED. COMMANDING OFFICER OF NAMRU-2 SUGGESTS THAT WE PROPOSE

A TEN-YEAR EXTENSION TO THE CHINESE.

5. PLEASE ADVISE.

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## Message Attributes

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